

Claims:

1. Thermotherapy device (1), especially for infants, with a horizontal surface (5) which is bordered by lengthwise sides (2), a head side (3) and a foot side (4), characterized in that there is a preferably three-sided supply means (6) for upwardly pointed supply of warm moist air with one side supply (7) in the area of each of the lengthwise sides (2) and/or one foot supply (8) in the area of the foot side (4), that above the horizontal surface (5) there is an exhaust means (9) for exhausting the supplied air and that the exhaust means (9) is located above the head side (3), especially above the head area (3a) of the horizontal surface (5) which borders the head side (3), that the supplied air is exhausted simply above the head side (3) and/or the head area (3a).

2. Thermotherapy device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exhaust means (9) extends transversely to the lengthwise direction of the horizontal surface (5) at least in areas over the length of the head side (3).

3. Thermotherapy device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the exhaust means (9) extends simply over the middle region of the horizontal surface (5).

4. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the length of the exhaust means (9) is smaller than the width of the horizontal surface (5).

5. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein on the head side there is a front wall (10), wherein the exhaust means (9) is connected to the front wall (10), and wherein preferably the front wall (10) is an integral component of the exhaust means (9) which assumes a flow-routing function.

6. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the front wall (10) extends at least essentially over the length of the head side (3) and/or wherein the side supply (7) extends at least essentially over the length of the lengthwise side (2) and/or wherein the foot supply (8) extends at least essentially over the length of the foot side (4) and/or wherein the exhaust means (9) extends at least essentially over the length of the head side (3).

7. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the exhaust means (9) overhangs the horizontal surface (5) from the head side (3), preferably up to over a

maximum 2/3 of the length of the horizontal surface (5).

8. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the exhaust means (5) has at least one preferably jacket-like guide element (20) which at least partially overhangs the horizontal surface (5).

9. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the guide element (20) extends proceeding from one front side of the exhaust means (9) as far as the lengthwise side (2), preferably beyond the lengthwise side (2).

10. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the outflow directions of the side supplies (7) are pointed at one another obliquely with an angle between 0° and 90°, preferably 10° and 60° from the vertical.

11. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the outflow direction of the foot supply (8) is pointed in the direction to the head side (3) obliquely with an angle between 0° and 90°, preferably 10° and 60° from the vertical.

12. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the exhaust means (9) is located at a distance over the horizontal surface (5) which is less than the width of the horizontal surface (5).

13. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the incident flow directions are preferably adjustable around two axes of rotation which run perpendicular to one another.

14. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the exhaust means (9) is vertically adjustable and/or wherein the exhaust means (9) is adjustable preferably around two axes of rotation which run perpendicular to one another.

15. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the side supplies (7) and/or the foot supply (8) are arranged tilted in the direction to the horizontal surface (5).

16. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein there are protective walls (11) on the side supplies (7) and/or the foot supply (8).

17. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective

walls (11) are detachably connected to the respective supply (7, 8).

18. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective walls (11) are located at an angle relative to vertical and perform a flow-routing function.

19. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein on the base body of the exhaust means (9) there is a flap (16), wherein the flap (16) is pivotally mounted and wherein the flap (16) extends at least in areas, preferably essentially over the length of the head side (3).

20. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the flap (16) in the lower position extends at least in areas over the length of the horizontal surface (5) and wherein the flap (16) in the lower position performs a flow-routing function.

21. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the side supplies (7) and/or the foot supply (8) have exit openings (18) which are pointed in different directions.

22. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the side supplies (7) and/or the foot supply (8) have a guide means (19) which guides the outflowing air, preferably made as a rectifying honeycomb.

23. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein there is a means for conditioning the air (12) which is coupled to the exhaust means (9) and wherein the means for conditioning the air (12) has a humidifying means (13) and a heating means (14) and wherein the unit for conditioning the air (12) is integrated into the substructure of the thermal therapy device (1).

24. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the temperature and/or the humidity and/or the supply speed of the air is adjustable.

25. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein there is at least one connection (15) for adding other gases.

26. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein a swirl hood is used as the exhaust means (9).

27. Thermotherapy device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the front wall

(10) passes into the swirl hood and wherein preferably the exhaust flow is deflected in the direction to the jacket of the swirl hood by the front wall (10).

28. Process for thermotherapy, especially of infants, with a horizontal surface (5) which is bordered by lengthwise sides (2), a head side (3) and a foot side (4), especially as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein warm moist air is blown out and up preferably solely from the lengthwise sides (2) and/or the foot side (4), wherein the supplied air is intaken from the top, wherein in the area above the horizontal surface (5) a given microclimate is formed and wherein the air is exhausted simply above the head side (3) and/or a head area (3a) which borders the head side (3).

29. Process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the air is exhausted solely in the middle above the head side (3) and/or the head area (3a).

30. Process as claimed in claim 28 or 29, wherein the head side (3) is bulkheaded.

31. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein the air is blown out and up such that constriction of the supplied air occurs.

32. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein air is supplied at least essentially over the length of the lengthwise side (2) and/or at least over the length of the foot side (4).

33. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein air with a temperature between 37°C and 41°C, a relative humidity between 80% and 90% and/or a speed of less than 15 cm/s is supplied.

34. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein the air intaken via the exhaust means (9) is filtered and/or thermodynamically conditioned and is supplied again to the supply means (7, 8).

35. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein the intaken air flow is divided into two component flows, preferably the component flows being supplied with a different temperature and/or with a different speed, especially via different exit areas of the horizontal surface (5).

36. Process as claimed in one of the preceding process claims, wherein air supply in the area

of the lengthwise side (2) and/or the foot side (4) takes place via component flows in a staggered manner with a temperature profile and/or exit speed profile which decreases from the inside to the outside.